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June 2000

English 30

Part A: Written Response

Grade 12 Diploma Examination

Description

Part A: Written Response contributes 50% of the total English 30 Diploma Examination mark and consists of **two** assignments.

 Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

Value 15% of total examination mark

• Literature Composition Assignment

Value 35% of total examination mark

Time: This examination was developed to be completed in 2 ½ hours; however, you may take an additional ½ hour to complete the examination.

Budget your time carefully.

Instructions

- Read the **whole** examination carefully before you begin to write.
- You may use the following print or electronic references:
 - -an English language and/or bilingual dictionary
 - -a thesaurus
 - -an authorized writing handbook
- Complete both assignments.
- Space is provided in this booklet for planning and for your written work.
- Use blue or black ink for your written work.

Additional Instructions for Students Using Word Processors

- Format your work using an easyto-read 12-point or larger font such as Times.
- Double-space your final copy.
- Staple your final printed work to the page indicated for word-processed work for each assignment. Hand in all work.
- Indicate in the space provided on the back cover that you have attached word-processed pages.

Do not write your name anywhere in this booklet.

Feel free to make corrections and revisions directly on your written work.

Instructions

- Because the Reader's Response to Literature Assignment is thematically connected to the Literature Composition Assignment, read **both** assignments before you begin.
- Read "The Layers" carefully and thoughtfully before you start the writing assignments.

THE LAYERS

I have walked through many lives, some of them my own. and I am not who I was. though some principle of being abides, from which I struggle not to stray. When I look behind, as I am compelled to look before I can gather strength to proceed on my journey, I see the milestones dwindling toward the horizon and the slow fires trailing from the abandoned camp-sites. over which scavenger angels wheel on heavy wings. Oh, I have made myself a tribe out of my true affections, and my tribe is scattered! How shall the heart be reconciled to its feast of losses? In a rising wind the manic dust of my friends, those who fell along the way, bitterly stings my face. Yet I turn, I turn, exulting somewhat, with my will intact to go wherever I need to go, and every stone on the road precious to me.

Continued

In my darkest night, when the moon was covered and I roamed through wreckage, a nimbus-clouded voice directed me:
"Live in the layers, not on the litter."
Though I lack the art to decipher it, no doubt the next chapter in my book of transformations is already written.
I am not done with my changes.

Stanley Kunitz

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment (Suggested time: approximately 30 to 45 minutes)

The poem suggests that the speaker chooses to persevere—to persist in spite of discouragement or loss.

What does the poem "The Layers" suggest to you about the effect of perseverance? Support your response with reference to specific detail from the poem.

Planning

There is additional space for planning on pages 4, 6, and 8.

Planning

There is additional space for planning on pages 6 and 8.

If you are using a word processor, staple your Reader's Response here. You may make corrections directly on your printed page(s).

Reader's Response to Literature Assignment

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Planning

There is additional space for planning on page 8.

Written Work	
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There is additional space for written work on page 9.

Written Work	

Literature Composition Assignment (Suggested time: approximately 1½ to 2 hours)

Much literature examines the individual's capacity to persevere in the face of hardship or the unknown.

Write an essay based on literature that you have studied in which the author examines the way in which an individual's ability to persevere influences his or her life. What idea(s) does the author develop regarding perseverance? Support and develop your controlling idea with reference to specific detail from the literature that you choose to discuss.

Guidelines for Writing

- Select literature that is relevant to this assignment from the short stories, novels, plays, poetry, other literature, or films that you have studied in your high school English classes. You must focus your discussion on literature *other than* the poem provided in this examination booklet.
- **Focus** your essay on your controlling idea about perseverance. Markers will be looking for evidence that you are developing and supporting your controlling idea in response to *this* assignment.
- Organize your composition so that your ideas are clearly, effectively, and coherently presented.

Initial Planning

You may use this space for your initial planning. No marks are awarded for work done on this page.

Author and title of literature that you have chosen	
Your controlling idea or thesis statement	
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There is additional space for planning on even-numbered pages.

If you are using a word processor, staple your Literature Composition here. You may make corrections directly on your printed page(s).

Literature Composition Assignment

Written Work

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Written Work

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Credit

Stanley Kunitz. "The Layers" from Passing Through: The Later Poems, New and Selected (W.W. Norton and Company, Inc., 1995). Reprinted under the Alberta Government Print Licence with Cancopy (Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency).

Biographical Note

Stanley Kunitz (1905–) has been poet-in-residence at the University of Washington, Queens College, Brandeis University, and Princeton, and has taught for many years in the graduate writing program at Columbia University. His many awards include the Pulitzer Prize (1959).

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June 2000

English 30: Part A

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English 30: Part A

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